

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P. O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

NOVEMBER 20, 2017

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: CHILDREN'S DIVISION AND CONTRACTED STAFF

FROM: TIM DECKER, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS

The purpose of this memo is to inform staff of the law that went into effect August 28, 2017 with the passing of [SB160](#), the Foster Care Bill of Rights (FCBR).

The seven items listed in the FCBR reinforce the Children's Division's mission and goals. Attached to this memo is a link to a poster containing the FCBR and a link to a document with smaller versions that can be printed and used as handouts. Posters must be displayed in all CD offices, Child placing agency offices, Residential facilities, Chafee provider offices, and Transitional Living agency offices. Children's Division offices will receive posters via standard mail. Partner agencies will print the posters to be displayed in their offices.

As part of this legislation, the FCBR must be provided and explained to all school aged children in foster care and his or her foster parent. The child's case manager is responsible for providing an age appropriate explanation or arranging for this explanation to occur. A set of talking points (attached) has been developed to help guide staff in having age appropriate discussions with youth about the FCBR.

This law prompted several changes to the Child Welfare Manual regarding the age at which a child should be invited to court hearings and family support team meetings. The age has been changed from 13 to 12 years old. Staff must invite children age 12 and over to family support team meetings when appropriate.

Also linked in this memo is a PowerPoint presentation that can be used to review the Foster Care Bill of Rights with foster parents or other community partners.

**NECESSARY ACTION**

1. Review this memorandum with all Children's Division staff.
2. Review revised Child Welfare Manual chapters as indicated below.
3. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels and

directed to:	
<b>PDS CONTACT</b> Jason Kearbey <a href="mailto:Jason.L.Kearbey@dss.mo.gov">Jason.L.Kearbey@dss.mo.gov</a>	<b>MANAGER CONTACT</b> Ivy Doxley <a href="mailto:Ivy.Doxley@dss.mo.gov">Ivy.Doxley@dss.mo.gov</a>
<b>CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS</b> <a href="#">1.2.4 - Rights of Children</a> <a href="#">4.7.1 - Activities in the First 24 to 72 Hours</a> <a href="#">4.7.2 - Family Support Team Meeting</a> <a href="#">4.9.6 - Operation of the Family Support Team (FST)/Permanency Planning Review Team (PPRT) Meeting</a>	
<b>FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS</b> N/A	
<b>REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES</b> <a href="#">Foster Care Bill of Rights Poster</a> <a href="#">Foster Care Bill of Rights handout</a> <a href="#">Foster Care Bill of Rights (youth talking points)</a> <a href="#">Foster Care Bill of Rights (youth talking points – hand out)</a> <a href="#">What's It All About?– A Guidebook for Youth in Out-of-Home Care</a> <a href="#">Foster Care Bill of Rights PowerPoint</a>	
<b>RELATED STATUTE</b> <a href="#">SB 160</a> <a href="#">Section 210.564, RSMo</a>	